

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-24 have been cancelled by previous amendment. Please amend claims 25, 32, 36 and 44 and cancel claims 30, 31 42 and 43 as follows.

1-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) An interworking method for a data connection between a first network element terminal supporting a first processing scheme and a second terminal supporting a second processing scheme, comprising the steps of:

[–]monitoring by an interim network element locating between the first and the second terminals the negotiation on a processing scheme between the first and the second terminals,

[–]detecting that the second terminal does not support a first processing scheme proposed by the first terminal, and

[–]providing by the interim network element an interworking function for adapting the first processing scheme to a second processing scheme supported by the second terminal,;

wherein said first and second processing schemes correspond to first and second error correction schemes, and

wherein said providing step comprises replacing a negotiation symbol indicating said first error correction scheme by a negotiation symbol indicating said second error correction scheme, and replacing a negotiation symbol indicating said second error correction scheme by a negotiation symbol indicating the highest common error correction scheme supported by said first terminal and said interworking function.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein said monitoring step comprises extracting negotiation symbols indicating said first or second processing schemes during a negotiation processing between said first and second terminals, and comparing said extracted negotiation symbols.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of passing a bit stream via said data connection without adaptation, when said detecting step indicates that said first and second processing schemes are the same schemes.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the first and second processing schemes correspond to first and second call setup negotiations.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein said first call setup negotiation is an analog setup negotiation via a modem, and said second call setup negotiation is digital setup negotiation.

30.-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) An interworking method for a data connection between a first network element terminal supporting a first processing scheme and a second terminal supporting a second processing scheme, comprising the steps of:

monitoring by an interim network element located between the first and the second terminals the negotiation on a processing scheme between the first and the second terminals;

detecting that the second terminal does not support a first processing scheme proposed by the first terminal; and

providing by the interim network element an interworking function for adapting the first processing scheme to a second processing scheme supported by the second terminal.

~~A method according to claim 30,~~ wherein said first and second processing schemes correspond to first and second error correction schemes, and wherein said providing step comprises replacing a negotiation symbol indicating said first error correction scheme by a negotiation symbol indicating the lowest available error correction scheme, and replacing a negotiation symbol indicating said second error correction scheme by a negotiation symbol indicating the highest error correction scheme supported by said first terminal and said interworking function.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~34~~ 25, wherein said providing step comprises converting data frames comprising said highest common error correction scheme into data frames comprising said second error correction scheme, and converting data frames comprising said second error correction scheme into data frames comprising said highest common error correction scheme supported by said first terminal and said interworking function.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein said providing step comprises converting data frames comprising said highest common error correction scheme into data frames comprising said lowest available error correction scheme, and converting data frames comprising said lowest available error correction scheme into data frames comprising said highest common error correction scheme supported by said first terminal and said interworking function.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein said data connection is a multimedia connection.

36. (Currently Amended) An interworking apparatus for performing an interworking processing in a data connection between a first terminal supporting a first processing scheme and a second terminal supporting a second processing scheme and locating between the first and the second terminals, comprising:

[–]monitoring means for monitoring the negotiation on a processing scheme between the first and the second terminals,

[–]detecting means for detecting that the second terminal does not support a first processing scheme proposed by the first terminal, and

[–] providing means for providing an interworking function for adapting the first processing scheme to a second processing scheme supported by the second terminal,;

wherein said first and second processing schemes correspond to first and second error correction schemes, and

wherein said providing means comprises a conversion means for replacing a negotiation symbol indicating said first error correction scheme by a negotiation symbol indicating said second error correction scheme and for replacing a negotiation symbol indicating said second error correction scheme by a negotiation symbol indicating the highest common error correction scheme supported by said first terminal and said error correction apparatus.

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said monitoring means comprises an extracting means for extracting an information indicating said first or second processing scheme during a negotiation step between said first terminal and said second terminal, and a comparing means for comparing said first and second processing schemes based on said extracted information.

38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising a buffer means for storing said information indicating said first and second processing schemes, wherein said comparing means is arranged to read said information indicating said first and second processing schemes from said buffer means.

39. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 36, further comprising switching means for by-passing said providing means, when said detecting means determines that the first processing scheme is supported by the second terminal ~~(5)~~.

40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said first and second processing schemes correspond to first and second call setup negotiations.

41. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said first call setup negotiation is an analog setup negotiation via a modem, and said second call setup negotiation is digital setup negotiation.

42.-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) An interworking apparatus for performing an interworking processing in a data connection between a first terminal supporting a first processing scheme and a second terminal supporting a second processing scheme and locating between the first and the second terminals, comprising:
monitoring means for monitoring the negotiation on a processing scheme between the first and the second terminals;

detecting means for detecting that the second terminal does not support a first processing scheme proposed by the first terminal; and

providing means for providing an interworking function for adapting the first processing scheme to a second processing scheme supported by the second terminal,

~~An apparatus according to claim 36,~~ wherein said first and second processing schemes correspond to first and second error correction schemes, and wherein said providing means comprises a conversion means for replacing a negotiation symbol indicating said first error correction scheme by a negotiation symbol indicating the lowest available error correction scheme, and for replacing a negotiation symbol indicating said second error correction scheme by a negotiation symbol indicating the highest common error correction scheme supported by said first terminal and said error correction apparatus.

45. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~43~~ 36, wherein said conversion means is arranged to convert data frames comprising said highest common error correction scheme into data frames comprising said second error correction scheme, and to convert data frames comprising said second error correction scheme into data frames comprising said highest common error correction scheme supported by said first terminal and said error correction apparatus.

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said conversion means is arranged to convert data frames comprising said highest common error correction scheme into data frames comprising said lowest available error correction scheme, and to convert data frames comprising said lowest available error correction scheme into data frames comprising said highest common error correction scheme supported by said first terminal and said error correction apparatus.

47. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said interworking apparatus is a network element having an interworking function.

48. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according claim 36, wherein said data connection is a multimedia connection.